

STAR WARS™

MARVEL

DARTH MAUL

005

BUNN
ROSS
WOODARD



DARTH MAUL

Book I, Part V

Sith apprentice Darth Maul has infiltrated an auction attended by the most dangerous crime bosses in the galaxy against the will of his Master, Darth Sidious. The prize: Jedi Padawan Eldra Kaitis, who was captured by profiteering gangster Xev Xrexus. With a group of bounty hunters – including Cad Bane and Aurra Sing – Maul has kidnapped the Padawan with the intention of killing her to satiate his vengeance against the Jedi.

Having discovered the theft, Xrexes shoots the hunters' vessel down and invites the auction attendees to hunt them down. Maul and Eldra split off from their group in order to pick off their pursuers. Despite working together, they bait each other until finally, their lightsabers clash....

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Over The Moon Of Drazkel.

IT APPEARS
THE PADAWAN
HAS PROVEN A
SIGNIFICANT
CHALLENGE FOR
THE HUNTERS.

EXCELLENT.

THEN THEY
ARE GETTING
THEIR MONEY'S
WORTH.

THEY'VE BEEN KILLED,
MADAME XREXUS. MOST OF
THEM, AT LEAST.

WE'RE GETTING
REPORTS THAT THE
PADAWAN AND HER COHORTS
HAVE **SLAIN** SEVERAL OF THE
HUNTING PARTIES.

MOST OF
THE OTHERS HAVE
ALREADY DECIDED
TO GIVE UP THE
CHASE.

HAVE THEIR
PAYMENTS
CLEARED?

THEY
HAVE.

WELL,
THEN...

I SUPPOSE
THERE'S **NO**
HARM IN A LITTLE
BLOODSHED.

THAT'S
WHAT THEY
PAID FOR,
AFTER ALL.

FOR THIS MOMENT,
I HAVE RISKED
EVERYTHING.

I HAVE BEEN
TRAINED FOR ONE
TASK. MY RAGE HAS
BEEN HONED INTO A
WEAPON SERVING
ONE PURPOSE.

TO KILL
JEDI.

YET I HAVE BEEN
ORDERED TO WAIT...
TO BIDE MY TIME...
TO MUZZLE MY
ANGER.

IN SECRET,
I STALKED
THIS ENEMY.



IF MY MASTER
LEARNS OF THIS
BETRAYAL, ALL MY
TRAINING WOULD
BE FOR NAUGHT.

YET AS LIGHTSABER
FLARES AGAINST
LIGHTSABER FOR
THIS FIRST TIME, I
KNOW ONE THING
FOR CERTAIN.



IT IS
WORTH IT.



ELDRA
KAITIS.

SHE IS CUNNING...
FAST...STRONG
WITH THE FORCE.



BUT SHE
IS *NOT* MY
EQUAL.

UNNF!

SHE IS--
LIKE *ALL* JEDI--
INFERIOR.



BUT I NEED
THIS FIGHT TO
PROVE IT TO
MYSELF.

THAT IS
WHY SHE
MUST *DIE*...









THAT'S
MY RIDE.



WELCOME
ABOARD,
BANE.



WHERE
TO?

OUR CLIENT
SAID TO TEAR
THROUGH THE
OTHER SHIPS.

THAT'S
WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO
DO.



SHOULD
BE SIMPLE
ENOUGH.

THEY WON'T
BE EXPECTING
AN ATTACK FROM
ONE OF THE
HUNTING
PARTIES.

THEN
WE PICK UP
MAUL...

"...ASSUMING
HE'S STILL ALIVE."

HHT!

SHE
SURPRISES
ME...

...TAKES ADVANTAGE OF
MY OVERCONFIDENCE.

AGH!

I THOUGHT SHE
WAS FINISHED...

...DEFEATED BEFORE
THE BATTLE HAD
EVEN STARTED.

BUT I
MISJUDGED
HER.

I UNDER-
ESTIMATED
HER SPIRIT.

YES.

THIS IS THE
BATTLE I'VE
WANTED.

THE PADAWAN
DEMANDS MY
ATTENTION IF NOT
MY RESPECT.

A LAPSE IN
CONCENTRATION...

...ONE
MISSTEP...

...AND SHE'LL
CUT ME DOWN.

SHE **DEFENDS**--
YES--BUT I CAN SEE
IT IN HER EYES...

...IN HER
MOVEMENTS...

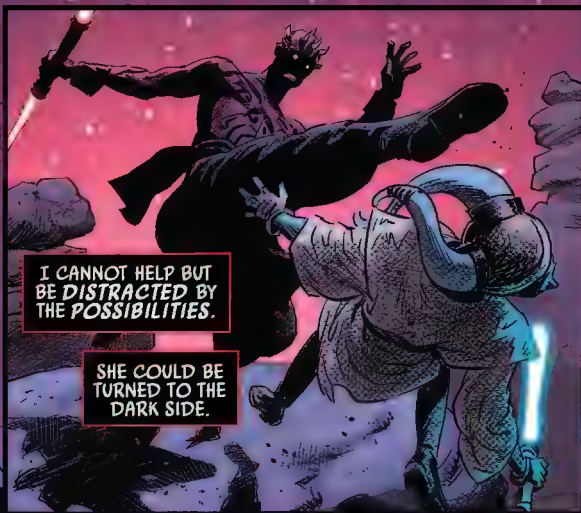
I'M NOT
GOING TO LET
YOU **BUTCHER**
ME.

AND--EVEN
IF YOU DID--
I'M NOT THE **JEDI**!
KNIGHT YOU WANT
TO FIGHT.

I'M JUST
A STUDENT--A
PADAWAN.

...ELDRA KATIS IS
BIDING HER TIME...
WAITING FOR THE
PERFECT INSTANT IN
WHICH TO STRIKE.

IN THIS WAY, SHE
IS MORE LIKE
THE **SITH** THAN
I WOULD HAVE
EXPECTED.



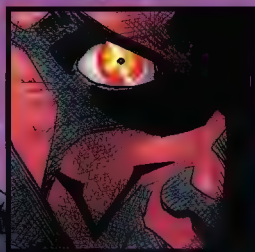
I CANNOT HELP BUT BE **DISTRACTED** BY THE **POSSIBILITIES**.

SHE COULD BE TURNED TO THE DARK SIDE.



BUT HER **SURVIVAL** IS SOMETHING I CANNOT RISK.

IF SHE LIVES, MY MASTER WILL LEARN OF MY **BETRAYAL**.



AND STILL...EVEN WITH THE CERTAINTY OF MY ACTIONS BEFORE ME... I CANNOT FOCUS.

ANOTHER **THRILLING PROSPECT** DANCES THROUGH MY MIND.



WILL ALL THE JEDI I AM DESTINED TO KILL...

...THE PADAWANS AND THE KNIGHTS ALIKE...

...PRESENT ME WITH SUCH A **WORTHY CHALLENGE?**



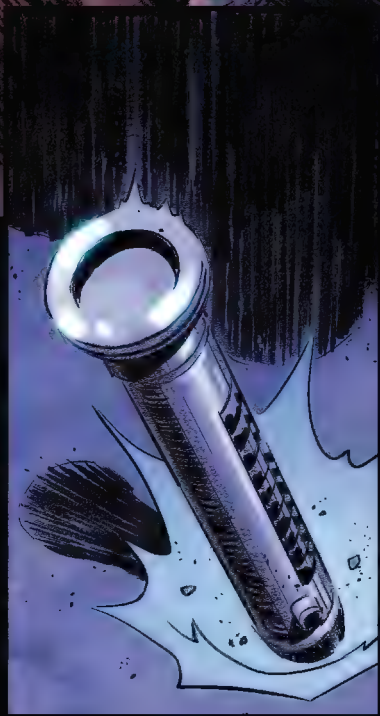
A WASTED EFFORT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO THROW YOUR WEAPON, MAKE SURE YOU **HIT** YOUR TARGET.



I WASN'T THROWING IT AT YOU.

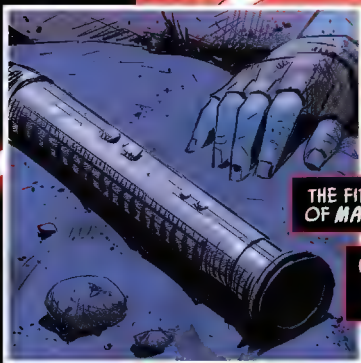




AND--JUST
LIKE THAT--IT
IS DONE.



I HAVE
KILLED MY
FIRST JEDI.



THE FIRST
OF *MANY*.

HER LIGHT
HAS BEEN
SNUFFED.



AND I
FEEL...



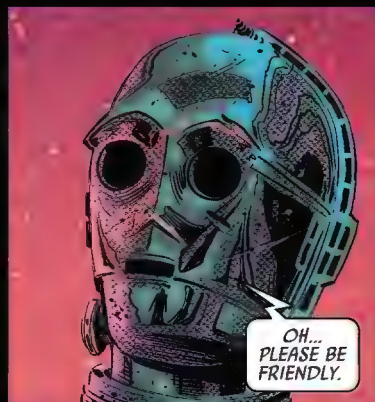


IS...IS
SOMEONE
OUT THERE?

I THOUGHT
I HEARD
SOMEONE.

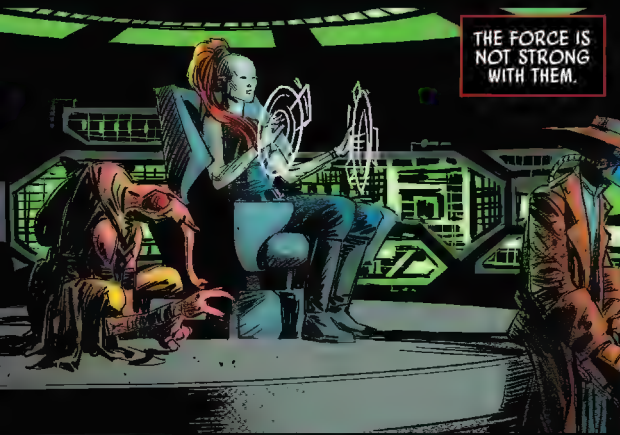
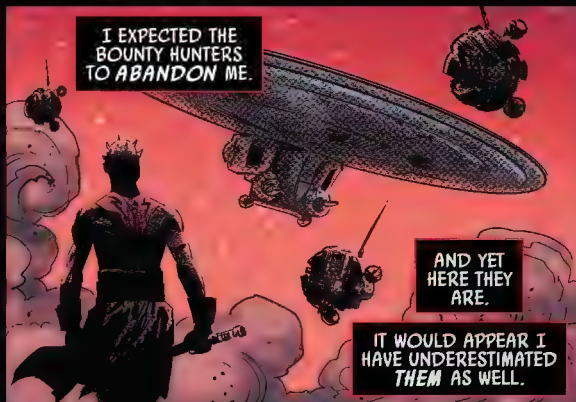


I'VE BEEN
WANDERING...
I'M AFRAID I
CAN'T SEE.



OH...
PLEASE BE
FRIENDLY.









Coruscant.



TELL ME, MY APPRENTICE.

DO YOU FEEL SATISFIED?

NOW THAT YOU HAVE SLAIN THE PADAWAN, HAS YOUR *BLOODLUST* BEEN SATISFIED?



YOU...

YOU KNEW?



OF COURSE.

WAS IT NOT *I* WHO SET YOU ON THIS PATH?

DID YOU BELIEVE YOU WOULD UNCOVER A SECRET TO WHICH I WAS NOT ALREADY PRIVY?



A TRIAL.

YOU WERE TESTING ME... TESTING MY LOYALTY.

AND I HAVE FAILED.





AT LAST I
KNOW HOW IT
FEELS, TAKING
A JEDI LIFE.

I DID NOT
FORESEE
THIS.

I EXPECTED TO
BE FULFILLED--AT
LEAST MOMENTARILY--
BY THE ACT.

BUT MY RAGE...
MY HATRED...
HAS ONLY
INTENSIFIED.

ELDRA KAITIS
DIED...AND I
ONLY FEEL
MORE EMPTY.

AN EMPTINESS
I HAVE BEEN
TRAINED TO
FILL IN ONLY
ONE WAY...

...BY
SLAYING
THE JEDI.

ELDRA
KAITIS WAS
BUT THE
FIRST.

NOW I
MUST ONLY...
WAIT.

The End

MACE WINDU

NEXT ISSUE?

